

RICHARD SHELBY
ALABAMA

RANKING MEMBER—COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING,
& URBAN AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

RANKING MEMBER—SUBCOMMITTEE ON LABOR, HEALTH
& HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION & RELATED AGENCIES

COMMITTEE ON RULES & ADMINISTRATION

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

304 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0103
(202) 224-5744

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0103

March 28, 2012

STATE OFFICES:

- 1800 FIFTH AVENUE NORTH
321 FEDERAL BUILDING
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203
(205) 731-1384
- HUNTSVILLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
1000 GLENN HEARN BOULEVARD
BOX 20127
HUNTSVILLE, AL 35824
(256) 772-0460
- 113 SAINT JOSEPH STREET
445 U.S. COURTHOUSE
MOBILE, AL 36602
(251) 694-4164
- 15 LEE STREET
FMJ FEDERAL BLDG., SUITE 208
MONTGOMERY, AL 36104
(334) 223-7303
- 2005 UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD, SUITE 2100
TUSCALOOSA, AL 35401
(205) 759-5047

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

0417

Dear Chairman Julis Genachowski:

I am writing in regard to the Piedmont City School District's participation in the FCC's "Learning on the Go" (LOTG) pilot program.

The FCC selected the Piedmont City School District to be one of 20 participants in the LOTG program, which enables schools and libraries to deliver internet connectivity and digital learning over portable devices outside of their facilities. The Piedmont City School District was the only school district in Alabama chosen to participate in the program, and I am especially proud of its successes in increasing technology utilization in underserved populations.

The Piedmont City School District has become a national leader in educational technology, as evidenced by the success of the district's "MPower Piedmont" one-to-one laptop initiative, which provides a computer to all students in fourth through twelfth grade and has put a computer in 500 homes for the first time. These accomplishments are particularly noteworthy given the city's rural demographics and low household incomes, with 65 percent of students qualifying for free or reduced-price school meals. Participating in the LOTG program will allow the Piedmont City School District to extend its learning day by providing at-home internet access for all students, including those who were previously financially prevented from obtaining at-home internet access.

It is my understanding that the FCC has extended the LOTG pilot to October 31, 2012. However, this extension allows less than a six-month window for implementation and evaluation of the success of the pilot. I am writing to offer my support and urge your consideration of the Piedmont City School District's proposal to extend its pilot program for two years in order to collect sufficient data for an effective evaluation. Furthermore, I ask that you extend an invitation to the Piedmont City School District to meet with you and your staff regarding its impact on the educational opportunities for students in rural Alabama.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If I can answer any questions or provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,


Richard Shelby

RCS:mvj

cc: Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

July 2, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Richard Shelby
United States Senate
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Shelby

Thank you for your letter regarding the Piedmont City School District's participation in the Commission's Learning on the Go Pilot Program. I appreciate your bringing this matter to my attention and have directed the Chief of the Wireline Competition Bureau's Telecommunications Access Policy Division to respond. I am pleased to provide the enclosed letter addressing your concerns.

If you have any additional questions or need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "Julius Genachowski", is written over a horizontal line.

Julius Genachowski

Enclosure



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

July 2, 2012

The Honorable Richard Shelby
United States Senate
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0103

Dear Senator Shelby:

Thank you for your March 28, 2012 letter expressing support for a proposal by the Piedmont City School District (Piedmont). Piedmont is a participant in the Commission's Learning On-The-Go (LOTG) (also known as the E-rate Deployed Ubiquitously 2011) Pilot Program. Specifically, Piedmont proposes that the Commission extend the LOTG Pilot Program for two additional years.

In the *Schools and Libraries Sixth Report and Order*, released in September 2010, the Commission launched the pilot program in order to investigate the merits and challenges of wireless off-premises connectivity services for mobile learning devices, and to help the Commission determine whether and how those services should ultimately be eligible for E-rate support. In March 2011, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) announced the 20 selected pilot program participants, followed by additional guidance in July 2011 for selected participants, including reporting requirements.

Subsequently, in February 2012, the Bureau, recognizing that certain pilot participants did not begin their pilot until after the school year started, released an order extending certain deadlines for participants that had not begun their projects prior to October 1, 2011. The Bureau thus granted these participants a limited waiver of the June 30, 2012 service delivery deadline, as well as a limited waiver of the invoicing deadline and other E-rate rules necessary to effectuate the extension, in order for these pilot participants to complete their one-year projects. The Bureau also extended the interim and final report deadlines for those pilot participants who did not begin their pilot projects before November 1, 2011 to provide additional time to gather data and prepare the reports. The Bureau, however, refrained from increasing the pilot participants' funding commitments, indicating that no evidence was received showing that the committed amounts were insufficient for projects to complete their one-year term.

Upon the conclusion of the pilot program and the submission of the final reports by the pilot participants, the Commission will review the data and information submitted by the pilot participants in order to evaluate the strengths, weaknesses, and the effectiveness of the LOTG pilot program, to inform the decision regarding whether to make off-premise wireless services eligible for support under the E-rate program.

Commission staff has also informally discussed the project status with the pilot participants during the course of the pilot program. Most recently, in January 2012, in order to interface with pilot participants and provide additional support, several Commission staff attended and participated in the LOTG Summit in San Diego, California, which was attended by 14 of the 20 pilot participants, including Piedmont.

Thank you again for your interest in this important matter. Please feel free to have Piedmont staff contact my office to schedule a meeting in order for Piedmont to share their experience and any suggestions as a participant in the LOTG pilot program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T B H", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Trent B. Harkrader
Chief
Telecommunications Access Policy Division
Wireline Competition Bureau